

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 02481 120451Z
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FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1661
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONO HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2481

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CH
SUBJ: WANG TUNG-HSING SPEAKS AT OPENING OF CENTRAL COMMUNIST
YOUTH LEAGUE SCHOOL

REF: PEKING 2292

1. SUMMARY. IN AN AUGUST 10 SPEECH, CCP VICE CHAIRMAN WANG TUNG-HSING APPEARED TO TAKE ISSUE WITH THE CONTENTION THAT MARXISM-LENINISM-MAO TSE-TUNG THOUGHT MUST EVOLVE AS HISTORICAL CONDITIONS CHANGE--A POSITION THAT HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY IDENTIFIED WITH TENG HSIAO-PING. END SUMMARY.

2. CCP VICE CHAIRMAN WANG TUNG-HSING, WHO RARELY SPEAKS IN PUBLIC, DELIVERED A SPEECH ON AUGUST 10 MARKING THE RESTORATION OF THE CENTRAL COMMUNIST YOUTH LEAGUE SCHOOL. THE SCHOOL HAS NOT BEEN OPEN SINCE THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND ITS REESTABLISHMENT PRECEDES THE ANTICIPATED FALL CONFERENCE ON YOUTH WORK. WANG'S SPEECH APPEARED IN THE AUGUST 11 PEOPLE'S DAILY.

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3. WANG'S APPEARANCE AND DOMINATION OF THE CEREMONIES SEEM DESIGNED TO DISPEL RUMORS THAT HE IS IN POLITICAL TROUBLE. SEVERAL REPORTS SUGGESTED EARLIER THAT WANG WAS AT ODDS WITH TENG (REFTEL), AN IMPRESSION THAT IS STRENGTHENED BY HIS AUGUST 10 SPEECH AT THE SCHOOL. AT A TIME WHEN REFERENCES TO MARXISM-LENINISM-MAO TSETUNG THOUGHT ARE INCREASINGLY

RARE, WANG'S EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THEORY STOOD OUT. WANG SAID THAT COMMUNIST YOUTH LEAGUE AND THE SCHOOL MUST "ARM" A GENERATION OF YOUTH WITH MAO TSETUNG THOUGHT AND TAKE CHAIRMAN MAO'S "GREAT BANNER" AS THE "PRICELESS HERITAGE" TO BE CARRIED ON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION. WANG STRESSED THE INVINCIBILITY OF MAO TSETUNG THOUGHT AND REFERRED ONLY ONCE TO "SEEKING TRUTH FROM FACTS," A METAPHOR FOR ADAPTING THEORY TO NEW HISTORICAL CONDITIONS.

4. WANG'S REMARKS SUGGEST THAT THE DEBATE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MARXISM-LENINISM-MAO TSETUNG THOUGHT IN DETERMINING FUTURE POLICY GUIDELINES IS FAR FROM OVER. TENG HSIAO-PING IS THE LEADER MOST CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH EFFORTS TO DEVELOP NEW THEORETICAL GUIDELINES--A POSITION THAT WANG APPEARS TO CHALLENGE. WOODCOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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